

REMARKS

This paper is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 15, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 15, 2005.

A request for a one month extension of time and the associated fee has been included in this Response.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, and 15 are currently amended in the Application

Claims 1-15 are pending in the Application.

I. Oath/Declaration

The Office Action objected to the oath as defective since the oath identified the Application as a "continuation." Applicant hereby submits a corrected oath as Attachment A to this Response.

Reconsideration of the objection in view of the remarks and corrected oath is respectfully requested.

II. Oath/Declaration

The Office Action objected to the Specification for various informalities. Applicant has amended Paragraph [00035] of the Specification as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added with these amendments. Reconsideration of the objection in view of the remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

III. Oath/Declaration

The Office Action objected to the claims for various informalities. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, and 15 as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added with these amendments. Reconsideration of the objection in view of the remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections, 35 USC §102

The Office Action rejected Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over Barree US Patent Number 4,776,618.

Barree is for a high-pressure coupling for small-diameter pipe obtained with standard male and female pipe connectors, three ferrules, an O-ring and a flat metallic washer disposed around the pipe. *Barree* is designed such that when the connectors are hand tightened, the coupling compresses the ferrules, O-ring and flat washer to obtain a coupling that will withstand pressures up to 10,000 psi.

The subject matter of the present Application relates to a self energizing tube connector for engaging a pressurizable part made of a tube capable of sustaining pressures up to 50,000 psi without deforming. The embodiments comprise an upstream tube end and a downstream tube end; a ferrule with a front and rear ferrule, a lifting component that engages the front ferrule to cause an upstream seal to form between a pressurizable part and tube, and a downstream seal to form between the front ferrule and the tube. The embodiments comprise a coupling nut for sliding over the tube and disposed downstream of the rear ferrule for engaging the pressurizable part. The coupling nut is adapted to tighten against the rear ferrule to tighten the front ferrule and lifting mechanism which compresses the front ferrule against the pressurizable part and the tube.

Barree uses an O-ring 60 and a flat metallic washer 80 to prevent leaking through the leak path that is created in *Barree* between the third ferrule 50 and threaded coupling nut 70. *Barree's* system is only capable of withstanding 10,000 psi due to the O-ring's inability to withstand greater pressures.

The current Application does not have a leak path between the pressurizable part 8, and the front ferrule 22 because of the use of the lifting component. As stated in the Specification: "The lifting component 26, when it slidably engages with pressure from the coupling nut 32, lifts the front ferrule 22 and forms an upstream seal 28 between the pressurizable part 8 and the tube 10. Simultaneously with this force from the coupling nut or jam nut 32, a downstream seal 30 is formed." (See Paragraph 22 of application as filed). The front ferrule 22 is pressed both against the tube 10 by the pressure applied to the front ferrule 22 by the pressurizable part 8, while the lifting component 26 applies pressure on the tube side of the front ferrule 22 to create a tighter seal against the pressurizable part 8. *Barree* does not have a lifting component as does the current application, part 40 of *Barree* is similar to the front ferrule 22 of the current application; however, only the tube 20 of *Barree* creates an outward pressure on the second ferrule 40. In addition, *Barree* does not include a lifting component to create an additional force and thus a tighter seal.

Reconsideration of the rejection to Claim 14 in view of the remarks is respectfully requested.

V. Claim Rejections, 35 USC §103

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-9, 12-13, 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over *Barree* US Patent Number 4,776,618.

Claim 1 does not claim an O-ring or a metallic washer, but does have a lifting component that is not taught by *Barree*. Applicant believes that the O-ring taught in *Barree*, as discussed in the remarks above, prevents *Barree* from withstanding pressures of above 10,000 psi. This present Application is not dependant on the material used, such as that of the O-ring in *Barree*. Further, the present Application is not dependant on the diameter of the tubing used. Again, as discussed above, the lifting component is not present in *Barree*, and thus the O-ring is required to seal the leak path.

Since Claims 2-9, 10-11, 12-13, 15 include all of the limitations of independent Claim 1, Applicant believes that Claims 2-9, 10-11, 12-13, 15 also distinguished from *Barree* for the same

reasons given in the remarks for Claim 1. Reconsideration of the rejection to the claims in view of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no new matter has been added with any amendments that have been made. Reconsideration of this Application with the amended claims in view of the remarks expressed throughout this Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 8/8/05

Wendy K. Buskop
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 32,202

Please mail correspondence to:

The address associated with customer number 29637.

Wendy K. Buskop
Buskop Law Group, P.C.
1776 Yorktown, Suite 550
Houston, Texas 77056
713.403.7411